precious to be endangered. Kipling's popularity has waned as air-raids have become more dangerous, and Imperialism lost much of its appeal since Piccadilly Circus became an outpost of empire. Few take pleasure in reading about, for instance, the British conquest of India, when doing so only serves to recall episodes which were glamorous until their like in Abysssinia and elsewhere threatened a European war and a possible bombardment of London. 'The English have seen my country, therefore I have lost it,'[16] an Indian potentate wrote to Sir Charles Metcalf when he learnt that an Englishman had travelled through his territory. His plight is now too reminiscent of Haile Selassie's for its recollection to afford any satisfaction. Imperialism, like Splendid Isolation, flourished when the Channel was an effective safeguard against invasion; when we sing 'Wider still and wider shall thy bounds be set', Mr. Eden has explained, that 'does not indicate any desire for more territory/ though without explaining what it does indicate. Perhaps in present circumstances, 'Further still and further shall thy bounds be set' would be more suitable. Air warfare has made the Empire seem rather an embarrassing, but still desirable possession whose origins are better forgotten, than a splendid heritage to rejoice in; and those self-righteous admonitions which were once addressed from London to a turbulent Europe, now emanate from Washington, a wider stretch of water than from Calais to Dover being necessary to facilitate them. The cult of Imperialism has moved with them across the Atlantic. It is Hollywood rather

than Elstree which delights (as in *The Lives of a Bengal Lancer)* in portraying outposts of Empire and the stern glory of the White Man's Burden.

Peace in our time, is an ancient prayer, devoutly uttered by generation after generation; what is unusual about this generation is that among them the belief has been prevalent that peace was assured. Their desire for peace expressed itself in an institution, resolutions, pledges, a conviction that what they dreaded could not happen; and when the institution proved worthless,

" Quoted in Edward Thompson's *Life of Sir Charles Metcalf.*